

102
718

35 2

A

27/29

S C H E M E

To secure and extend the

Credit and Strength

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.



L O N D O N :

Printed by H. KENT, for E. COMYNS, Bookseller, at the South
Entrance of the *Royal-Exchange*. MDCCXLVII.

A

H A I E H D

the first of the year

the first of the year

the first of the year

the first of the year

the first of the year

the first of the year

the first of the year

the first of the year

the first of the year

the first of the year



A

S C H E M E, &c.

TH E great Encrease of the National Debt, the Variety of burthensome Taxes and publick Mortgages that have accumulated since the Commencement of the present Century, and the dangerous Consequences that must attend the Continuance of such Measures, however necessary they might heretofore have been, seem now to fill the Breasts of our worthy Patriots with those Passions which are enkindled by the Love of their Country, and to induce them to raise the annual Supplies, *in Proportion to Property, and without Prejudice to Trade* : This encourages me to offer my Sentiments on so momentuous a Subject, in order to promote an Establishment, that may *secure and extend the Credit and Strength of the British Nation*, and thereby humble our greatest Rivals, and most powerful Enemies, who have gain'd surprising Advantages over us in several Branches of Trade, since the Peace of *Utrecht*.

A 2

MANUFACTURE

MANUFACTURE and Trade are two of the principal Springs of Wealth : Those Nations that encourage them most will have the best Share of them ; and the most effectual Way to encourage them will be to clear them of Taxes, and those that have the best Share of them will have most Money and most Power, as Money is the Sinews of War ; and Success will attend those who can spend most Money and hold out longest : Wherefore I will propose, that the Practice of borrowing Money upon any annual Supply be discontinued, *whilst the Necessity of the State can admit of it*, and that some Method be fallen on, before it is too late, to raise Money to answer the Exigencies of the Government within the Year ; and to abolish all Taxes that may be any ways prejudicial to the Manufacture and Trade of this Kingdom.

ALTHOUGH it is propos'd, That the present Taxes that shall be found prejudicial to our Manufacture and Trade be abolish'd, yet the Customs on all Wares of the Produce of Foreign Nations, may still remain, except in some Instances where there may be special Cause to the contrary ; and the Excises on such Home Consumptions and Luxuries, as may be easy and beneficial, together with such Taxes as shall be no ways prejudicial to our Manufacture, Trade and Plantations, may also continue, which will find employ for, and maintain such Officers as the Nature and Circumstances of the national Affairs may require ; and such remaining Taxes will probably raise annually upwards of TWO MILLIONS.

A GENERAL

A GENERAL Tax upon all Families (except the Poor and lower Sort) in Proportion to the Rents or annual Value of the Houses they live in, with some Regard to their Property, Expences and Luxury, and to such Incomes *as can be ascertained*, seems to be the best Expedient to answer these Purposes ; but there is seldom any general Rule without Exceptions, which will be the Case in this Instance, in many Particulars, especially as to the Value of Rents, and the Properties and Circumstances of the Families. However, there may be discretionary Powers lodged, with proper Limitations and Regulations, *with regard to Incomes*, and to the Work-Houses of all sorts of Manufacturers, which may be excluded, and only the Houses such Families dwell in be rated : And such other Provisions may be made as shall tend to favour the Poor, the Husbandman, the Manufacturer, and the Mariner ; and consequently the Trade and Navigation, as well as the Landholders * of *Great-Britain*.

BESIDES this Tax on Families in general, I have proposed an additional Tax on the richer Sort, and particularly on such Families as can, and do afford to keep Coaches, Chariots, or Chaises *for their own Use*, since the keeping those Machines and large Houses, is *generally* the

B

Mark

* There is an inseparable Affinity in all Nations, and at all Times, between Land and Trade, which are Twins, and have always, and ever will, wax and wane together. It cannot be ill with Trade, but Land will fall, nor ill with Land, but Trade will feel it. Sir *Josiah Child's* Preface, Page 19.

Mark of Affluence and Opulency, and the principal Measure of Expence and Luxury. And I have also propos'd a moderate additional Tax on old Batchelors of Fortune and good Circumstances, as such a Tax will be easy and voluntary, as it may be avoided or afforded: All which it is computed will raise ANNUALLY FIVE MILLIONS, as *per* the Scheme and Computation hereunto annex'd, mark'd A.

SEVEN or Eight Millions may be rais'd at any Time, without Prejudice to Trade, by mortgaging the two last Articles, which are propos'd to be paid by such as may chuse whether they will pay any Part of it or not, should it be found inconvenient.

THE Method propos'd for raising all these new Taxes will be attended with no manner of Inconveniency, with regard to *searching Houses* and *taking Oaths*. The Collection will be attended with a small Expence; and the Scheme, if put in Execution, will, in due Time, encourage the Manufacturer, by enabling the Poor to work cheap; which, in its Consequence, will enable us to afford our Exports to Foreign Countries, and to our Colonies, 15 or 20 *per Cent.* cheaper than we do now, as will appear by the Computation hereunto annex'd, mark'd B.

THE Necessity of thus altering our Measures will further appear, when it is duly consider'd, that if the Practice

tice of raising Money by Taxes on Trade, and mortgaging the same, shall continue, Interest of Money will rise with the Pressures of the State ; and if the Government shall ever be obliged to pay 6 *per Cent.* Interest on such new Mortgages, there will be * less Money rais'd thereon in Proportion to the Interest, and there will be a large Reduction of the Property of this Nation, by a further Fall of publick Stocks ; besides what will be lost in the Value of Lands, and by the Failure of Rents, not only from the Cause of such high Interest, but also from a certain † Decay of Trade, in Proportion to the Taxes that shall be impos'd thereon.

AND moreover, such Taxes on Trade, as well as on Native Products, are in many Instances, more than doubled, by means of the Goods passing through so many Hands, so loaded with Taxes, and their Consequences, before they are consumed by the Mechanick, the Manufacturer, the Husbandman, the Merchant, the Mariner, or the Landholder, which raises the Value of our Exports and Freights, and adds largely to the || general Expence of this Nation.

B 2

O N

* *Vide* Scheme and Computation A. Page 15.

† The Decays that come upon, and bring to Ruin any Country, do constantly fall on the Land ; and tho' the Country Gentlemen be not very forward to think so, yet this is nevertheless an undoubted Truth, That he is more concern'd in Trade, and ought to take a greater Care that it be well managed and preserved, than even the Merchant himself. *Locke*, Vol. II. Page 27.

|| *Vide* Computation B.

ON the other hand, such a general Tax to be laid on Families, in Proportion to the Rents of the Houses they live in, and their Incomes and voluntary luxurious Expences, as herein propos'd, in lieu of the present Taxes on Coals, Salt, Leather, Candles, Soap, Malt, Beer and Ale, and other Taxes on our Manufactures and Consumptions, which this Nation now labours under, will ease the Expence of every particular Family, and raise such a general Credit and Plenty of Money, as will, with prudent national Oeconomy, bring publick Interest again, from between 4 and 5 *per Cent.* to 3 *per Cent.* which will raise the Value of Stocks as high as it was when such Interest was at 3 *per Cent.* besides the immense Advantages that will thereby attend this Nation, by encouraging our Manufactures, easing the Parishes of their Poor, * extending our Trade and Navigation, securing our Plantations, and turning the † Balance of Trade with other Nations in our Favour, and thereby *secure our Superiority at Sea*, which are the natural Consequences of easing Taxes on Trade.

SUCH an Alteration of Measures will give Weight and Influence to the *British* Name in all Foreign Councils ; and it will give such a Credit and Strength to this Nation as will enable us to beat our Rivals at War, as well as in Trade,

* Low Interest gave the *Dutch* many Branches of Trade, as it gave Strength to their Arms, and Acuteness to their Invention. Sir *Josiah Child's* Preface, Page 21.

† *Vide* Computation B. Page 16.

Trade, and thereby support our COMPETITION with the *French*, and gain from them as many Advantages as they have gained from Us, from their wise Maxims in Trade, together with their Vigilance since the Peace of *Utrecht* : Then every Landholder in *Great-Britain* will feel the good Effects of it in the Value of his Lands, and the punctual Payment of his Rents, from the boundless Wealth that will thereby pour into this Realm, and be incorporated into the Estate of the Kingdom.



AN Extract taken from * a Pamphlet, publish'd by the
AUTHOR of this Scheme, in 1745, intitl'd, *The Present
State of the British and French Trade to Africa and
America, consider'd and compar'd ; with some Propo-
sitions in favour of the Trade of Great-Britain, Page 27
to 30 ; which is as follows :*

N regard to the fourth Article of Proposals, *to
' ease the Manufacturers of this Kingdom of
' burthensome Taxes, by raising a new Fund, it
' may be alledg'd, that the Exigencies of the
' Government cannot, at present, admit of easing Taxes,
' and granting all these Aids and Bounties, however ne-
' cessary it may appear to be for the Security and Preserva-
' tion of our Trade and Plantations; and as Works that re-
' quire great Applications are little agreeable to the Hu-
' mour and natural Disposition of many, so it can't be ex-
' pected that they can be propos'd, and ALL executed at
' the same Time.'*

*' HOWEVER, it seems necessary at this critical
' Juncture, to propose something that may be put in
' Execution, as Opportunity offers, or as the Necessity of
' the State may require ; and as there are many of the pre-
' sent Taxes, besides what is already mentioned, that lie
' very heavy on the Manufacturers and Landed-Interest
' of this Kingdom, there is nothing that seems more eli-
' gible to answer all these Purposes, and many more,
' than*

* To be had at Mr. Comyns's, at the South-Entrance
of the Royal-Exchange.

‘ than a general Fund to be rais’d within the Year, ac-
 ‘ cording to the following Scheme and Computation,
 ‘ taken from a Treatise commonly called Sir *Matthew*
 ‘ *Decker’s*, intituled, “ *Serious Considerations on the se-*
 “ *veral high Duties which the Nation in general (as well*
 “ *as its Trade in particular) now labours under.*”

‘ It is therein computed, That the Houses in *England* amount to
 ‘ 1,200,000 ; in *Scotland* to 250,000 ; and in *Wales* to 150,000.

‘ It is suppos’d,

‘ 100,000 in *England* may be empty, and so }
 ‘ pay nothing - - - - - }
 ‘ 500,000 to be inhabited by the Poor and }
 ‘ lower Sort, and to pay nothing - }

‘ Then it is propos’d,

‘ That - - - - - 600,000 of the richer Sort pay 6*l.* † per }
 ‘ House or Family, in an Average, } £
 ‘ which is computed from 3*l.* to } 3,600,000
 ‘ 60*l.* per House or Family, in- }
 ‘ cluding the Lands or real Estates }

‘ It is propos’d, That *Scotland* and *Wales* pay one Half of the }
 ‘ Proportion that *England* may }
 ‘ pay. }

‘ 200,000 of the richer Sort, to pay 3*l.* per }
 ‘ House or Family, in an Average, }
 ‘ which is computed from 30*s.* to } * 600,000
 ‘ 30*l.* per House or Family, in- }
 ‘ cluding the Land or real Estates }

£ 4,200,000

† It is computed, that 10*l.* per House round, in *England*, will come much easier to the Landholder, than the Taxes they now pay ; and it will raise 7,000,000*l.* per Annum, according to the above Computation, which is as much as all our Taxes now clear to the Government, during the War.

* The propos’d Tax on *Scotland* and *Wales* may be still lower’d, if it shall be found convenient.

' IF this Propofal to raife 4,200,000*l.* annually, fhall
 ' be thought extravagant, perhaps one Moiety of the
 ' Whole, or a lefs Proportion, may answer the Purpofe,
 ' or try the Experiment: But when it is confider'd *how*
 ' *easy it will come from every Individual*, and what Be-
 ' nefit will accrue thereby from eafing the many weighty
 ' and dangerous * LOADS on our Commerce, Colonies,
 ' and † Manufactures, and alfo on our Landholders, on
 ' Account of the Land-Tax, *as well as the Taxes on what*
 ' *they expend*, furely no one that will duly and impartially
 ' confider this Part of the Scheme, and the Confequences
 ' of it, can fay one Word againft it; efpecially as there
 ' will be fufficient to answer the Debts of the Navy, and
 ' other Exigencies of Government, without borrowing
 ' more Money on long Mortgages, to be fecured by bur-
 ' thenfome, if not ruinous, Taxes; it will afford Bounties
 ' where neceffary for the national Welfare, and eafe
 ' Taxes where it fhall, from Time to Time, be found of
 ' national Advantage. It will enable us to beat our Ri-
 ' vals in Trade in our Turn, and terrify our Enemies, by
 ' letting them fee that we can raife our annual Supplies
 ' without running further in Debt; befides many other
 ' Conveniencies and Advantages enumerated in the faid
 ' Treatife,

* ' The prefent Duties on Coals, Candles, Soap, Salt, Leather, Beer, Ale,
 ' Sugar, Rum, Molaffes and Malt, &c. &c. &c.

† ' A Man's Labour in *France*, in many Manufacturies, cofts but 4 *d.* to 5 *d.*
 ' Sterling *per Day*; and in *England*, the like Labour with the *Engliſh* Manu-
 ' facturer cofts from 10 *d.* to 12 *d. per Day*.

‘ Treatise, especially those of removing all Temptations
 ‘ to *Smuggling*, and of *gradually* lowering the national
 ‘ Debt.

‘ THE following Paragraph, taken from the said
 ‘ Treatise [Page 28] is worthy of the most serious At-
 ‘ tention.

“ THAT something like a Scheme of this Nature is
 “ expedient, or rather absolutely necessary, I am more
 “ convinced than I care to express ; for I would not wil-
 “ lingly give a Handle to our Enemies, to entertain a
 “ mean Opinion of us. I know we are a rich and
 “ wealthy Nation, and have great Resources ; but con-
 “ sider what the sacred History reports of the Riches of
 “ *Solomon* : His Treasure was immense, such as enabled
 “ him to build a Temple at *Jerusalem* (according to the
 “ Computation of learned Men) of almost incredible
 “ Value ; yet his Riches have long since vanish’d, the
 “ Place where the Temple stood, and even *Jerusalem*
 “ that contain’d it, is scarcely now to be found. God forbid
 “ that this should ever chance to be our Case, BY GOING
 “ BEYOND OUR STRENGTH.”



A.

A SCHEME to raise 5,000,000 Pounds Sterling in One Year.

a. A whole Family in a House worth	10 l. to 12 l. per Annum, to pay	£ 1 — —
from - - - - -	12 to 15 - - - - -	2 — —
	15 to 20 or a certain Income of 100 l. per Ann.	3 — —
	20 to 30 - - - - -	5 — —
	30 to 40 - - - - -	8 — —
	40 to 50 - - - - -	13 — —
	50 to 60 - - - - -	20 — —
	60 to 70 - - - - -	30 — —
	70 to 80 - - - - -	40 — —
	80 to 90 - - - - -	50 — —
	90 to 100 and upwards - 800	60 — —
b. Every Family that has a certain Income of 1000 l. per Ann. to pay besides the above	20 — —	
	2000 - - - - -	50 — —
Every - - - 3000 - - - - -	100 — —	
c. Every Family that keeps a Coach, } Chariot, or Chaise and Six, }	for their own Use, to pay besides - - - - -	50 — —
— Four, - - - - -	- - - - -	30 — —
— Two, - - - - -	- - - - -	10 — —
d. Batchelors above 28 Years old, who } have a certain Income of 100 l. }	per Annum, to pay besides the above - - - - -	1 — —
	200 - - - - -	3 — —
	300 - - - - -	6 — —
	400 - - - - -	10 — —
	500 - - - - -	15 — —
	600 - - - - -	18 — —
Every - - - 1000 - - - - -	30 — —	

COMPUTATION.

a. Families in Houses as per Article a - - - - -	* 4,200,000
b. Families of the richer } Sort, suppose, - - - }	8000 - - - - - at 20 l. extra as above - 160,000 l.
	4000 - - - - - at 50 - - - - - 200,000
	1000 - - - - - at 100 - - - - - 100,000
	460,000
c. Families that keep } Coaches, suppose - - }	1000 of 6 as above, at 50 l. extra - - - 50,000
	3000 of 4 - - - at 30 - - - - - 90,000
	10000 of 2 - - - at 10 - - - - - 100,000
	240,000
d. Batchelors, suppose - 10000 - - - - -	at 10 round, one with another - 100,000
Total, admitting the Computations to be right - - -	£ 5,000,000

* Vide Computation, Page 11.

THE

THE Articles mark'd c. d. amounting to 340,000*l.* may be mortgaged, until the other Articles mark'd a. b. can be brought about, or for Ten Years, or longer, if it shall be found expedient : They will raise

5,666,000	- -	at 6 <i>per Cent.</i> Interest. <i>Vide Page 7.</i>
6,800,000	- -	at 5
7,555,000	- -	at 4½
8,500,000	- -	at 4
11,333,000	- -	at 3 <i>per Cent.</i> Interest.

WHAT is propos'd to be paid by Families, to be paid by every Head of such Families.

EVERY Person liable to pay any, or either of the said Taxes, shall cause his Name, Parish, and Place of Abode, and the Amount of such Tax or Taxes, to be enter'd in the Office of each County to be appointed for that Purpose ; or with the Church-Wardens of the Parish in which he or she resides (who shall return the same into such Office) and such Taxes to be paid into such Office, or to such Church-Warden quarterly (or sooner if the Payer requires it, upon being allow'd an Abatement of the current Interest for prompt Payment) and in case of Neglect, to pay double or treble the Amount of such Tax or Taxes, on Conviction.

THE Land-Tax, and such other Taxes as shall be found *inconvenient* or *burthensome*, may hereby be gradually eas'd, or totally abolish'd.

THEN supposing the latter be the Case ; let every Head of a Family compute his yearly Expences in Coals, Candles, Soap, Salt, Vinegar, Sugar, Tea, Tobacco, Rum, Malt, Cyder, Ale, Beer, and other Necessaries of Life ; and also in Woollen, Leathern, Iron, Linen, and Silk Manufactures, and other Household Goods, Apparel, and Equipage, besides Salaries and Labour ; and then suppose the Savings, by thus easing the Taxes, may amount to, in an Average, between one Fifth and one Eighth of the present Cost of all those Particulars : That will, in all Probability, save, to every particular Family, as much as is propos'd, by this Scheme, to be paid by them respectively, if not more ; besides getting clear of the Land-Tax, and all other Taxes, except such as shall be found necessary and convenient, and no ways prejudicial to our Trade and Navigation.



COMPUTATION.

COMPUTATION. B.

Rental of <i>England</i> - - - - -	20,000,000
Total Exports and Freights - - - - -	8,000,000
People in <i>England</i> 8,000,000 - - - - -	
Total Expences of our own People, at 7 <i>l.</i> per Head, exclusive of the Ex- pence upon Exports - - - - -	56,000,000
Total Taxes now paid annually, viz.	
Customs - - - - - about - - - - -	1,700,000
Excises, and other Taxes - about - - - - -	3,300,000
	5,000,000
Charges, and the advanced Price of the Goods the above Duties are laid on, and other Consequences that attend Taxes, before Consumption by our own People, including the Poor's Tax	8,000,000
	13,000,000
N. B. One Moiety of the above Taxes, to the Amount of 6,500,000 <i>l.</i> may be saved, if this Scheme shall be put in Execution.	
The Land-Tax, at 4 <i>s.</i> per Annum, as per Account C. - - - - -	2,000,000
	15,000,000
Total Taxes paid clear to the Government annually - - - - -	7,000,000
Total Taxes paid annually by the People - - - - -	15,000,000
The present Taxes on Exports $\frac{1}{3}$ of 13,000,000 <i>l.</i> - - - - -	£ 1,625,000
The Remainder on * Land and Trade - - - - -	13,375,000
	15,000,000

ACCORDING to this Computation, 5,000,000 *l.* to be raised, as per Scheme A. will be equal to all the Taxes now paid clear to the Government, within 2,000,000 *l.* which may be raised from the Taxes that are proposed to remain.

THIS Tax is equal to no more than 12 *s.* 6 *d.* per Head round, and 1 *s.* 6 *d.* $\frac{1}{4}$ in the Pound on the total Expences. — Our Exports may become cheaper by £ 1,625,000 *l.* or 20 *l.* 6 *s.* 3 *d.* in every 100 *l.* now exported; as soon as all Duties and Taxes on our Manufactures shall cease and determine. And suppose upon the Whole, it should prove no more than 15 per Cent. or even 10 per Cent. that will give a vast Ease to our Colonies with regard to our COMPETITION with the *French*, and it will be sufficient to turn the Balance of Trade with Foreign Countries highly in Favour of the *British* Nation.

An

C.

An Account of the Proportion the several Counties pay to the
LAND-TAX, compared with the Number of MEMBERS they
send to PARLIAMENT, exclusive of *Scotland*.

COUNTIES.	Parliament Members.	Pts. of the Land-Tax.	Proportion paid to make up 2,000,000 <i>l</i> .	COUNTIES.	Parliament Members.	Pts. of the Land-Tax.	Proportion paid to make up 2,000,000 <i>l</i> .
Bedford - - -	4	7	27,290 9 —	Monmouth - - -	3	3	11,695 18 1½
Berks - - -	9	10	38,986 7 1	Norfolk - - -	12	22	85,769 19 7
Bucks - - -	14	12	46,783 12 6	Northampton - - -	9	12	46,783 12 6
Cambridge - - -	6	9	35,087 14 5	* Northumberland	8	4	15,594 10 10
Chester - - -	4	7	27,290 9 —	Nottingham - - -	8	7	27,290 9 —
Cornwall - - -	44	8	31,189 1 8	Oxon - - -	9	10	38,986 7 1
* Cumberland - - -	6	1	3,898 12 8½	Rutland - - -	2	2	7,797 5 5
Derby - - -	4	6	23,391 16 3	Salop - - -	12	7	27,290 9 —
* Devon - - -	26	21	81,871 6 10½	Somerfet - - -	18	19	74,074 1 6
* Dorset - - -	20	9	35,087 14 5	* Southampton - - -	26	14	54,580 17 11
* Durham - - -	4	3	11,695 18 1½	Stafford - - -	10	7	27,290 9 —
Essex - - -	8	24	93,567 5 —	Suffolk - - -	16	20	77,972 14 2½
Gloucester - - -	8	12	46,783 12 6	Surry - - -	14	18	70,175 8 9
Hereford - - -	8	5	19,493 3 6½	Suffex - - -	28	16	62,378 3 4
Hartford - - -	6	11	42,884 19 9½	Warwick - - -	6	10	38,986 7 1
Huntingdon - - -	4	4	15,594 10 10	* Westmorland - - -	4	1	3,898 12 8½
Kent - - -	18	22	85,769 19 7	* Wilts - - -	34	13	50,582 5 3
* Lancaster - - -	14	5	19,493 3 6½	Worcester - - -	9	9	35,087 14 5
Lincoln - - -	4	9	35,087 14 5	* York - - -	30	24	93,567 5 —
Leicester - - -	12	19	74,074 1 6	Wales - - -	24	11	42,884 19 9½
Middlesex - - -	8	80	311,890 16 9				
All England and Wales				513	513	2,000,000	— —

To find the Proportion of 1,000,000*l*.
halve the above Sums; and to make
up 4,000,000*l*. double them.

Note, That the Proportion of the Six Northern and Five Southern Counties } L. T. - - - P.M.
mark'd thus * - - - - - are - - - - - } 103 - - - 216

And that of *Middlesex* and *Essex* - - - are - - - - - 104 - - - 16

4JJ.TL
Blackwell
1981

A
S C H E M E

To secure and extend the
Credit and Strength
OF THE
BRITISH NATION.